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Jordan Times

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Regional Briefs

BEIRUT, April 23 (R)—Experts today defused a bomb set to go near the Iraqi commercial centre in West Beirut, security forces said. The centre and the Iraqi Airways office were damaged by bomb blasts nine days ago. A caller at the time phoned the office to say that the "Iraqi Mujahideen Organisation" is responsible for the explosions. Today's incident came amid reports that a Shi'ite Iranian-born leader, Ayatollah Seyyed Jammad Baqer Al Sadr, had been executed in Iraq. Earlier today, Shi'ite leaders in Lebanon declared three days of mourning, starting tomorrow, to mark the ayatollah's reported killing. Similar mourning began in Iran today.

ANKARA, April 23 (R)—At least 20 people were killed in street political violence throughout Turkey yesterday — one of the worst daily tolls for years, police reported. Nine people died and 14 were wounded in the southern town of Tarsus, where fighters fought a gun battle with police and military gendarmes. Twenty people were detained later. Four people were killed in two separate incidents — one apparently in revenge for the other — in the south-eastern town of Siverek. In the south-eastern town of Reck three people died when rightists strafed a cafe with machine-gun fire. Two people were shot dead for political offences in Istanbul, one in Ankara, one in Gaziantep and one in Tokat. According to press reports, 1,430 people have died in political incidents in Turkey in the past five months, including 27 officers and 45 policemen.

JNIS, April 23 (Agencies)—President Habib Bourguiba today named Mr. Mohammed Mzali as the new Tunisian prime minister, replacing Mr. Hadi Nouria, ill since earlier this year. Mr. Mzali, a 55-year-old education minister, was also appointed secretary-general of the Destour Socialist Party. Mr. Nouria suffered a brain haemorrhage in February and was admitted to hospital in Paris. He came back to Tunisia earlier this month and has been convalescing since then. Since entering politics in 1956, Mr. Mzali has served as minister of education, defence, youth and sports and health. A member of the ruling Destour Party since 1947, he has been a member of the party's central committee since 1964 and the politburo since 1969. Since 1976, he has been president of the International Olympic Committee.

TEHRAN, April 23 (Agencies)—Iran and South Yemen have agreed to establish diplomatic relations beginning today, Tehran radio reported, quoting the Iranian foreign ministry spokesman. A joint statement issued in Tehran and Aden says the move is prompted by the "cultural and religious bonds between the two Muslim brother nations."

ABAT, April 23 (AP)—Morocco announced today it has cut off diplomatic relations with Cuba, just five days after King Hassan's government cut diplomatic ties with Libya. Informed sources said the action followed Havana's recent diplomatic recognition of the Sahara Arab Republic, the state proclaimed by the Algerian-backed Polisario Front guerrilla movement seeking an independent Sahara. Rabat cut diplomatic ties with Tripoli after Libya recognised the Sahara Republic.

'ALLETTA, April 23 (R)—Maltese Prime Minister Dom Mintoff left for Tripoli this morning for talks with Libyan leader Col. Muammar Qadhafi. Their talks are expected to centre on the continued supply of Libyan oil to Malta. The talks between Mr. Mintoff and Col. Qadhafi follow the recent conference in Tripoli of hardline Arab countries in which it said they supported Malta's on-aligned and neutral status. Mr. Mintoff is expected to return home tomorrow.

AIRO, April 23 (R)—Lillian Carter, mother of the American president, arrived today from Israel on a four-day visit to Egypt. Mrs. Carter, 81, was hosted to dinner tonight by President Anwar Sadat, a U.S. embassy spokesman said.

BELGRADE, April 23 (R)—Twelve out of 15 Arab delegations to a world trade unions conference on development today continued to boycott its sessions in protest against the participation of the Egyptian Trade Unions Federation. Conference sources said only the Tunisian and Somali delegations, in addition to the Egyptians, attended today despite efforts by the host country, Yugoslavia, to bring other Arab delegations to the meeting. The four-day conference, which is expected to issue a joint declaration on global economic and social development, opened yesterday in the absence of 12 Arab delegations which had arrived here for the meeting. Delegations from 95 countries are listed as participants in the conference.

ALGIERS, April 23 (R)—Two members of the security forces were seriously injured in clashes with Berber students at Tizi-Ouzou, southeast of Algiers, informed sources said today. The sources, quoted by the official Algerian News Agency (APS), said the clashes took place when police evacuated from Tizi-Ouzou university students demanding recognition of the Berber culture. Tizi-Ouzou is the capital of the Berber region. More than a fifth of Algeria's 18 million population are of Berber origin.

IOC proposes talks with U.S., Soviet leaders on Olympics

LAUSANNE, Switzerland, April 23 (R)—International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Lord Killanin today proposed talks with American and Soviet presidents Carter and Brezhnev in a bid to check the growing boycott of the Moscow Olympic Games.

In a statement at the end of three days of Olympic discussions here, the IOC chief said he was ready to visit Washington and Moscow "to stress once again the position of the IOC and the purpose of the Olympic Games which is to assemble the youth of the world in accordance with Olympic principles."

In a bid to ease the political pressure which the IOC says threatens the future of the Olympic Games and all international sport, he offered countries whose governments object to their teams parading national flags before Soviet leaders at the formal opening and closing ceremony the option of marching under the Olympic flag or any other emblem.

The IOC executive board, however, agreed with world sports federations that it was impractical to consider allowing individual athletes to take part in the Moscow Games, even if their National Olympic Committee (NOC) declined the formal invitation to attend.

The West German parliament today voted overwhelmingly to urge its national Olympic organisation to join the boycott which President Carter proposed as a protest against Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan. The Canadian government also joined the list of those supporting the United States view.

Lord Killanin told a press conference that it was not possible to estimate how many of the 143 eligible countries would stay away from the Moscow Games. This would not become clear until the formal deadline for entries expires on May 24.

He stressed that "the Olympic games are a series of contests among individuals and not countries, and that participation of an athlete in the games in no way infers support for the political ideology nor for the actions of the country in which a city is staging them."

"The Olympic Games are the property of the IOC and not of the host country. They are awarded to a city purely on considerations of organisational capabilities and never on political grounds," the IOC statement said.

Lord Killanin said he had a message yesterday from President Carter explaining that the U.S. boycott arose "solely from the adverse impact of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan on the standards of international law, and on the preservation of human rights, and on the national security of the United States and many other Free World nations."

The Irish peer said no date had been fixed for any meetings with the two world leaders. "I only want to see if there is any form of give and take which would help the games," he said.



BEIRUT, April 23 (Agencies)—Three hundred Irish troops flew into Beirut today to relieve part of Ireland's 700-man contingent in the United Nations' Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). The troops will replace 250 soldiers who fly home today as part of a routine six-monthly troop rotation. Fijian and Ghanaian forces have reinforced Irish troops in the U.N. zone since gunmen killed two Irish soldiers last week. Both the Irish government and the United Nations have blamed Maj. Saad Haddad's rightist militia for the killings. A year ago, during a similar troops rotation, 400 Israeli troops, backed by rightist militia, temporarily

occupied a village in the Irish sector of the U.N. zone. Irish Prime Minister Charles Haughey has asked President Carter to put pressure on Israel to end its support for the militia. Israel has condemned the killings, but defended its support for Maj. Haddad. Israeli Defence Minister Ezer Weizman told the Israeli cabinet yesterday he had instructed his commanders to try to influence Maj. Haddad to refrain from attacking U.N. troops. The remainder of the Irish UNIFIL force will be replaced next month. The AP wirephoto above shows some of the Irish contingent arriving at Beirut Airport today.

Support for sanctions grows Iran to strengthen trade relations with Soviet bloc

From combined news agencies dispatches

Iran, confronted with growing support by non-communist countries for U.S. sanctions, gave fresh signs Wednesday that it planned to strengthen its trade ties with the Soviet bloc.

Reports in both Tehran and Moscow spoke of a new economic agreement in the making between Iran and the neighbouring Soviet Union, while extra sales of Iranian oil to Eastern Europe were officially predicted.

The evidence of closer commercial ties with the Soviet bloc developed as cabinet sources in Tokyo said Japan was likely to announce diplomatic and economic measures against Iran similar to those adopted by the European Common Market.

The nine EEC foreign ministers agreed in Luxembourg Tuesday to take sanctions against Iran leading to a near-total trade embargo until the hostages held at the U.S. embassy in Tehran are released.

Japan's foreign minister met the EEC representatives in Luxembourg this week in an apparent move to coordinate the policies of his country and the Common Market, and the new Japanese measures were expected to be adopted Thursday, the Tokyo sources said.

The EEC ministers also announced a cut in their countries' embassy staff in Tehran, with a parallel reduction in Iranian representation in EEC capitals. They said their ambassadors would shortly return to Iran to explain their decision.

In Washington, the state department issued a statement praising the Common Market ministers for their decision to impose sanctions. Noting that some of the countries involved would have to change their laws, it said: "We are hopeful that the necessary legislation will be promptly enacted."

Britain acted swiftly Wednesday on the EEC measures against Iran, slashing its embassy staff in Tehran and introducing visa requirements for Iranian visitors.

British officials also said that three supply ships being built for the Iranian Navy in Britain were not expected to be delivered. One of them, the Kharg, has been completed and the other two are under construction.

The 20-strong embassy in Tehran is being reduced to four and most of the diplomats recalled will be returning to London Wednesday and Thursday, the official said. The mission will now be headed by a chargé d'affaires.

The officials said Britain would soon instruct Iran to cut its 10-member diplomatic staff in London.

In Bonn, Chancellor Helmut

Schmidt said Wednesday West Germany has set in motion its legal machinery to impose trade sanctions against Iran.

The sanctions would come into force on May 17 if no decisive progress had been made in efforts to release the hostages held in Tehran for nearly six months. Mr. Schmidt told parliament.

Mr. Schmidt, whose government has taken a leading European role in pressing for EEC sanctions against Iran, welcomed the community's decision to act in solidarity with the United States.

"At the same time, I hope that it will not prove necessary for the sanctions to come into effect and that the hostages are released," he said.

Mr. Schmidt also announced an immediate ban on new West German export contracts with Iran.

Mr. Schmidt said the West German measures, taken after a cabinet meeting, were in line with a United Nations Security Council resolution on Iranian sanctions, which he said was vetoed by the Soviet Union last January.

Three legal documents to impose possible West German sanctions, which were to be published forthwith, would not come into effect until after the next EEC foreign ministers' meeting in Naples in mid-May, he said.

Canada expelled an Iranian diplomat and imposed limited trade sanctions against Iran.

External Affairs Minister Mark MacGuigan announced the measures while he was conferring in Ottawa Wednesday with U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, to whom he handed a copy of the surprise official statement after their initial half-hour meeting.

Iranian Charge d'Affaires Mohammad Hossein Adeli, who will be the only Iranian diplomat left in Ottawa, said Iran regretted the Canadian actions, which would not secure the release of the hostages in Tehran.

"We regret that Canada has bowed to a decision coming from the United States," he told reporters.

In Tehran, Acting Finance Minister Reza Salimi was quoted as saying Iran and the Soviet Union had drafted wide-ranging trade agreements which would be submitted to the ruling Revolutionary Council.

Mr. Salimi was reported by the English-language Tehran Times as saying an Iranian ministerial delegation would visit Moscow soon to continue discussions on trade and the transit of goods to Iran.

Iranian diplomats in Moscow said talks on a new economic cooperation agreement were

under way between the Iranian government and a delegation from the Soviet state committee for foreign economic relations.

Commenting on the proposed strengthening of the trade ties with Moscow, the secretary of the Revolutionary Council, Ayatollah Mohammad Beheshti, told a Tehran press conference that it did not mean Iran would fall into a state of dependence on the Soviet Union in place of its previous dependence on the West.

He also said increased trade with the Soviet bloc was something normal rather than a reaction to western sanctions.

The prediction of fresh oil sales to Eastern Europe came from Oil Minister Ali Akbar Moinefar.

He said Iran would shortly start selling oil which Japan and two Western European companies, British Petroleum and Shell, were refusing to buy at new, higher prices.

Mr. Moinefar said Iran had agreements to sell some of the oil, mostly to Eastern European countries, at an effective price of \$35 a barrel if its three biggest customers continued to refuse payment of the higher price.

He also said Romania had signed contracts to buy 100,000 barrels a day of Iranian oil, a 60-per-cent increase on its previous purchase, and that the sale would be made at the full new price.

A Soviet trade delegation arrived in Tehran two weeks ago and was said last week to be working on a gas-for-spares-parts deal with Iranian authorities. Talks about Soviet gas purchases broke down last month when Moscow rejected Iran's demands for a six-fold price increase.

Reporting imminent sanction measures by Japan, the Tokyo cabinet sources said they would start with a reduction of embassy staffs and tight controls on new exports to Iran.

Then, as with the EEC plan if there are no decisive developments in the situation of the U.S. hostages by May 17, all exports to Iran would be banned, except food and medicine, the sources said.

In Tehran Wednesday, the university campus was quiet after fighting there on Monday between Muslim fundamentalists and left-wing students.

The latest casualty report put the death toll in the fighting at six, with 400 people injured.

Eleven people were reported killed in areas outside Tehran in similar clashes over the government's decision to expel political organisations from the universities.

Protests 'shameful film' Saudi asks Britain to withdraw envoy

BAHRAIN, April 23 (R)—Saudi Arabia today asked Britain to withdraw its ambassador in retaliation for the recent screening of a television film about the execution of a Saudi princess for adultery, the official Saudi Press Agency said.

The agency said the Saudi cabinet had discussed Anglo-Saudi relations "in the light of the British government's negative attitude towards the screening of the shameful film."

"The cabinet decided to delay the presentation of the credentials of the new Saudi ambassador to Britain. Consequently there is no need for the British ambassador in the kingdom at present," the agency quoted Information Minister Mohammad Abdul Yamani as saying.

The agency said the cabinet, which met last night under the chairmanship of the Saudi Crown Prince Fهد Ibn Abdul Aziz, also studied economic relations with Britain, especially the work of British firms in the kingdom.

The film sought to reconstruct the case of Princess Mishal, executed by firing squad for adultery in November 1977 and her lover, who was beheaded.

The agency also reported a meeting between the Saudi foreign minister, Prince Saud Al Faisal, and the British ambassador, Mr. James Craig, in Riyadh today but gave no details.

Mr. Craig had been ordered back to his post from holiday abroad to calm Saudi Arabia, which denounced the film as sensation-seeking fiction that insulted the religion of Islam and the Saudi royal family.

British Foreign Secretary Lord Carrington also sent a cable to Riyadh expressing regret about the film, shown on April 9 on Britain's Independent Television network.

In London, Britain today expressed regret at Saudi Arabia's call for the withdrawal of its ambassador in Riyadh and said it hoped relations would quickly return to normal.

A foreign office statement said: "In view of the present tensions in the Gulf area, it is particularly important that friendly states should keep in the closest touch."

"We hope it will be possible to restore relations to their normal level as soon as possible," it added.

The foreign office statement said Britain regretted the Saudi decision to ask Ambassador Craig to return to London and to delay the appointment of a Saudi ambassador to this country.

"It is most unfortunate that Anglo-Saudi relations should have been damaged by a film for which the government was in no way responsible and which it could not prevent being shown on British television or elsewhere," it said.

Mr. Craig is expected back within a few days but British officials stressed the Saudi action did not amount to breaking diplomatic relations.

The Saudi embassy in London regretted in a statement the deterioration of relations "as a result of the fierce and malicious campaign which was directed against Saudi Arabia on television and other information media in the United Kingdom and which was aimed at attacking the Islamic Sharia (Islamic law) and the values and traditions of the Saudi people."

The statement expressed sincere hope for the restoration of relations on "a more solid and strong basis in light of our conviction of the paramount importance of the mutual interests which bind the two countries and the long-standing friendship between their two peoples."

Europe condemns Israel, urges self-determination for Palestinian people

STRASBOURG, France, April 23 (R)—The parliamentary assembly of the 21-nation Council of Europe today condemned Israel's settlements policy in the occupied territories and called on it to recognise the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination.

With no votes against and 10 abstentions, the assembly adopted a 19-paragraph resolution which also called for a spirit of compromise in the Middle East and a new European effort to find peace in the region.

The resolution was drafted by an assembly committee following several months of investigations into the Middle East situation and visits to Strasbourg by the foreign ministers of Israel, Egypt, Jordan and Syria.

In other clauses it affirmed Israel's right to existence, security and independence and called on the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to acknowledge that right.

The resolution said the Camp David accords between Israel and Egypt could not, up to now, be seen as a basis for a comprehensive Middle East agreement.

It called for European action within the United Nations with a view to changing Security Council Resolution 242 which it said in its present wording reduces the problem of the Palestinian people to a refugee problem.

Mr. Naim Khader, the PLO Brussels representative who attended today's debates, told reporters afterwards: "This vote shows there is an awareness in Europe that it is time to end the suffering of the Palestinian people."

But one of the official Israeli observers at the council, Mr. Michael Harish, said the vote was unfortunate both for his country and for Europe.

French Gaullist Jacques Baumel, a member of the drafting committee, told reporters he regarded the call for European action as the most important element in the resolution.

"We must take some positive action in this area, which has hitherto suffered much through the rivalry of the superpowers," he said.

At The Hague, the leader of a delegation presenting a PLO peace plan for the Middle East said yesterday the proposals were intended to replace the Camp David accords.

Mr. Khaled Al Hassan, head of the foreign affairs committee of the Palestinian National Council (PNC), the Palestinian parliament in exile, said the PNC, with the official support of the PLO had drawn up five points it wanted included in a European initiative:

1. Israel should withdraw to its pre-1967 war boundaries.

2. The occupied zones should come under the trusteeship of the United Nations for up to one year.

3. The U.N. should organise a referendum of all Palestinians on whether they wanted to exercise their right to self-determination.

4. If the Palestinians chose independence, a state should be established in Gaza and the West Bank.

5. Negotiations should then begin under U.N. auspices among the United States, the Soviet Union, the European Common Market countries and all concerned countries in the region, including the governments of the new state and Israel, to deal with various problems.



One Cuban runs the gauntlet of jeering Cubans the Jose Maria Airport in Havana, headed for an Aerias Jet that would take him, and the other Cubans on board, to Madrid, Spain, for refuge from communist rule in his homeland. More than 11,000 persons swarmed into the grounds of the Peruvian embassy in Havana earlier

this month. More than half of the would-be refugees have been spoken for, including up to 3,500 by the United States, 1,000 by Peru, 500 by Spain, 200 by Ecuador, 300 by Costa Rica and undetermined numbers by Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Belgium, West Germany and Sweden, (AP wirephoto)

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The cabinet decided to cut

This amount, Mr. Masa'deh said, will cover the increase for the next eight months, adding that the *estimated annual cost of the salary increase will be JD 14 million. The*

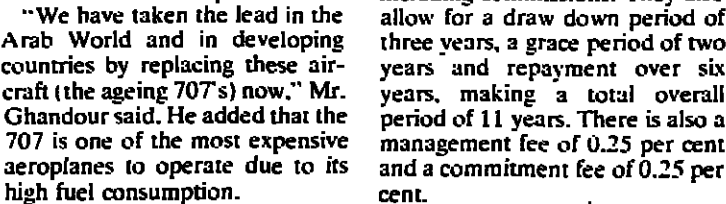
The prime minister said following the cabinet session that the decision comes in implementation of the government's policy of controlling expenditures and through them controlling inflation, and is meant to assert the importance of self-dependence and to lessen Jordan's dependence on outside assistance.

The problem that we have to deal with is not one of accurate historical research, because the scores of participants in this conference and their colleagues, thousands of historians throughout the world, could agree on certain common denominators about the history of Palestine.

Will we have to go through this drama of irresponsibility once again in Palestine, when Zionism is stamped, and the Republic of Palestine is born? Is there nobody in the United States who will remind the leadership there of that great and true cliché, that those who ignore the mistakes of the past are condemned to repeat them? Perhaps in his next visit to Egypt, Mr. Sol Linowitz could drop in for a chat with the Shah, and discuss these finer points of history and politics. It's perhaps too late to do much good for the Shah. We'd like to think it's still not too late for the United States.

Of course the Arabs' relationship with Europe and the United States is one of mutual dependence. We need them just as they need us. The relevant question, however, is whether they prefer an economic war and a break with the Arab World or with Israel. We must put that choice before them.

However, Europe today seems different, and the European initiative, which has crystallised in the aftermath of the French president's recent tour and which constitutes a sincere attempt to achieve a just peace in the region, should not be discontinued. It arose out of definite convictions about the failure of the Camp David accords and the inability of a separate settlement to achieve the desired peace.



including Friday, until April 30
p.m. and 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

The Jordanian Artists' Association presents an exhibition of paintings, sculpture and ceramics by 45 Jordanian artists, most of whom are association members. The works are displayed at the association's centre in Jabal Luweibdeh (in a side street opposite the French Cultural Centre). The exhibition is open every day, including Friday, until April 30. Opening hours: 10:00 to 1:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

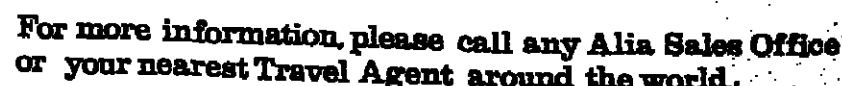
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Read in this week's issue:
STORM OVER THE ALLIANCE: THE U.S. AND ITS ALLIES DIFFER OVER THEIR STRATEGY TOWARD IRAN AND AFGHANISTAN.
NEXT IN IRAN: MILITARY ACTION? THE U.S. SURVEYS ITS REMAINING OPTIONS.
IS THE AYATULLAH A HERETIC? YES, ACCORDING TO EXPERTS IN MUSLIM DOCTRINE.

**Call: tel. 37881 from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
or 3:00 to 6:30 p.m.**



هكذا عن التصل

Recommendations to be issued today

Papers on pan-Islamism, Zionism presented as congress draws to close

By Norah Barger and Salwa Taher
1 to the Jordan Times

April 23 — The roots of pan-Islamism were the evicted Circassian of the Caucasus and the This was the thesis of a presented today at the final session of the Third annual Congress on the of Bilad al Sham (Greater

ingress, which is focusing estine, has gathered over 100 scholars from aries to discuss papers by the participants. It Saturday and will end ow when recoms will be issued.

presentation today, Dr. arpat from the University main explained how the ns of the Caucasus and ans gave rise to a pan-push to resist Russian ment on the Ottoman

e 1860s and 1870s their eviction (by Russia) create the first need for ainst the onslaught of sm," Dr. Karpat said. "It r a combination of the fall Muslims against Rus-

ad linguistic differences of eassus to the Ottoman immigrants were soon n because under Ottoman were "subjected to the atment."

result of the Circassian n, the Ottoman gov- he said, developed a dis- pan-Islamic attitude in itionally liberal immig- olicies. In the 1890s its tion board was renamed gh Muslim Migration ion. The step reflected ogical dimension in the n policy of accom- , and encouraging Mus- ation as well as the initial ng of the religious unity of

lms. eed to four million Mus- ning out of the Caucasus ed a "demographic event- eaching dimensions." In- areas of the Ottoman where there had been n majorities, the Dis- of peoples was changed r of the Muslims.

ermore, the Ottomans definite demographic in settling the Circassians. The settlement plan, he into account the need nece of agricultural areas ed by nomads: the Cir- settlements provided a for other settled areas.

immigrants were also set- the Hijaz Railroad to it. Thirdly, he said, the ns found it in their interest ase the number of Muslims area as a buffer against with nationalist or separat-

encies.

Dr. As'ad Abdul Rahman, from the University of Kuwait, related the history of the struggle between the World Zionist Organisation (WZO) and the Zionist Nation before and after the creation of the state of Israel. We have always tended to look at the Zionist operation as unified and indivisible, he said, and yet there was a split and a struggle for power within it.

Israeli Zionists maintain that the essence of Zionism is the migration to the state of Israel — only in living there can any person achieve Zionist self-realisation. The WZO, on the other hand, wants to leave the individual free to help the Zionist cause anywhere in the world.

For a long time, the state and the organisation competed for the leadership of the Zionist world. In the end, he said, the child, Israel, imposed its authority over the father, the WZO.

The centralisation of Zionist policy-making in Israel, however, was strongly challenged. Nahum Goldman, the leader of WZO, was at loggerheads with David Ben Gurion, the prime minister of Israel.

Mr. Ben Gurion ultimately won, leaving behind him a school and a tradition of centralisation. It was an easy task for Mr. Menachem Begin to enforce the trend and assure its continuity until today, Dr. Abdul Rahman concluded.

In one of the most widely attended panels of today, Dr. Dominique Chevalier dealt with the Palestinian cause and French public opinion.

Palestinian claims have always been presented to French public opinion in a pan-Arab and Muslim context, but the French public was familiar only with the concept of the nation-state as it is understood in the West, he explained. This is part of the reason why it accepted more readily the concept of the state of Israel, he said, even though it was based on Jewish consciousness.

Imperial powers must be presented with a national idea, he said. The concept of the Umma (Islamic community), a transcendental whole, simply did not register with the French public.

Dr. Chevalier then differentiated between governmental declarations on the one hand and public opinion and the press on the other. In 1967, public feelings were with Israel, he pointed out. The military defeat hurt the Arab image because it meant a failure to master modern technology. And yet, President de Gaulle's position was pro-Arab, and he condemned Israeli aggression. After the 1973 war, feelings were divided, but on the whole favourable to the Palestinian cause.

There is something about every French president, said Dr. Chevalier informally during coffee break, that makes every one pro-Arab. Valéry Giscard d'Esta-

ing never made one pro-Arab statement in his previous political career before coming to the office. And now he is touring the Gulf and issuing pro-Arab declarations.

When asked how he would explain this strange phenomenon, Dr. Chevalier explained: "I think it has to do with his having to have a global political vision. Historically, France has always seen it as desirable to have good relations with the Muslim World. It is also very important for France that the Middle East remain independent."

When asked about the French intellectuals like Jean-Paul Sartre and their anti-Arab stand, he answered: "Granted, French intellectuals are Zionists, but more and more of them are understanding the Arab cause every day. Sartre was not anti-Arab as much as he was pro-new Jewish nationalism."

Dr. Mantran (of the Université de Provence) asserted that a great number of the French intellectuals were anti-Zionist, but that a strong lobby of Jewish interests embargued their views and saw that they were not published.

In the same session, Dr. Jacques Thobie (of the Université de Haute - Bretagne) reviewed French interests in Palestine on the eve of the First World War.

Dr. Wagih Al Kawtharani of the American University of Beirut, analysing the French position towards Zionism at the advent of the twentieth century, pointed to an important contradiction in French policy at the time. The French, who had refused to limit Zionist emigrations to Palestine on the grounds that France was a non-racial country, had at the time accorded all Jews in Algeria French nationality.

Algerian Jews, said Dr. Saidouni of the University of Algeria, never sympathised with the Algerian revolution. On the other hand, they never fully identified with the Zionist movement. They were western in their outlook, and French in their allegiance. And so, many who immigrated to Israel re-emigrated later to France.

In an all-too-brief presentation of his rather dense study entitled "Legal Aspects of the Palestine Question," Dr. Jamal Nasir, a lawyer who is a former Jordanian minister of justice, mentioned a few of the outstanding juridical points of the question. He stressed that Turkey did not cede its sovereignty over Palestine to any other state, but rather relinquished it to the British Mandate. "The idea was novel," he said of the Mandate: "the execution of it marked the birth of the legal troubles that have afflicted the Middle East since that time."

Another sticky legal problem is that today the Israelis claim that the presence of an Arab state in the mandated area (Transjordan) is grounds for resisting demands

for second Arab state — namely some form of independent state of Palestine, distinct from Jordan. However, Dr. Nasir argued, Transjordan for legal purposes never formed part of the British Mandate, so the Israeli argument does not hold.

On the legal status of the 1948 armistice lines he said: "No claims are disposed of by an armistice agreement. It is no more than a permanent military arrangement to hold state of no fighting. Belligerency does not cease. All claims, territorial and otherwise are, as it were, in abeyance. No questions of sovereignty are resolved."

He posed what he called the "crucial legal question: did Israel in the events of 1948-49 acquire a better title in law to the territory which it held as Israel, than Jordan to the territory of the West Bank and the Old City?" Answering "no," he made the following statement: "By 1950 the legal position was that Israel had in fact asserted its own right of self-determination of peoples' by armed forces to establish the State of Israel proclaimed unilaterally on May 15, 1948."

"Jordan had without doubt asserted its governmental authority over the Arab peoples of the West Bank and the Old City of Jerusalem and their territories with their consent, and had established a union of those territories with territories already under the sovereignty of Jordan."

On Israeli claims to territory seized in 1967, he said that those to the Old City of Jerusalem are devoid of any basis, including a Biblical one. In any case, this latter claim carries no weight in terms of international law. In regard to the West Bank and Gaza he said that the sole serious legal Israeli claim — that of security — is difficult to support in terms of existing facts. He added that the claim by Israel that these territories are occupied for lack of recognised Jordanian territorial sovereignty before 1967 in those areas is "spurious."

Also presented today were two papers on Jerusalem. Mr. Ruhi Al Khatib, a former mayor of Jerusalem who was exiled by the Israelis, gave what was termed a "very objective" account of the history of city councils in Jerusalem up to the present day. The Under-secretary of the Ministry of Interior, Dr. Salem Kiswani, gave a paper on Israeli attempts to change the Arab character of Jerusalem.

This evening, His Highness Crown Prince Hassan, who patronised the congress at the University of Jordan, attended a reception hosted by the Jordanian-Turkish Friendship Society in honour of Turkish scholars participating in the congress. His Highness Princess Alia attended a number of today's sessions.

The Greeks in Palestine: Integration, but no assimilation

EDITORS NOTE: Dr. P.J. Vatikiotis of the University of London is from a Greek family which settled in Palestine, and left at the end of the British Mandate in 1948. His paper, "A personal memoir and recollection," aroused lively discussions at the Third International Congress on the History of Bilad Al Sham just ended at the University of Jordan. Dr. Vatikiotis talked with the Jordan Times during a break in conference about his family's story and his work.

By Salwa Taher
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A boisterous and dynamic man with a keen sense of humour and an impeccable British accent, Dr. P.J. Vatikiotis does not look much like the expatriate he calls himself. And yet his family history had been far from sedentary.

Jordan Times: Dr. Vatikiotis, your family went to Palestine as immigrants, and later left it as refugees. Is such a reversal a very common phenomenon?
Dr. Vatikiotis: I don't know how common you can call it. The fact remains that in the days of Ottoman rule, many Greeks — pharmacists, physicians, commercial agents etc. came to Palestine to earn a living, and stayed there for nearly a century.

JT: What brought your own family to Palestine?
PJV: My paternal grandfather was a sea-faring man, from the Greek island of Ydra, who called several times at Acre ('Akka) before he finally settled there sometime in the 1880s. My grandmother, though, was an Arab, from the 'Azzam family. She was later Hellenised — but only in speech, mind you.

JT: And where was your mother from?

PJV: Her family, the Meimarachis, migrated to Jerusalem from Rhodes in 1902. They came to join a member of the family who had earlier left Crete in order to become a monk. You

see, many Greeks were brought to Palestine by relatives or guardians who were members of the Greek clergy or the Order of the Holy Sepulchre.

JT: And how did they all come to leave Palestine?

PJV: The Greek community disintegrated and dispersed with the end of the British mandate. The older generation — including my own father — chose to return to a mother land they had never known. The younger ones — like myself — I may be a grandfather but I am a member of the younger generation of Greek refugees) migrated to Australia, the USA, Canada or South Africa.

JT: You mean to say that all Greeks left Palestine at the time of the creation of the state of Israel?

PJV: Very few stayed behind. A maximum of eight to ten Greeks remained in Haifa, for instance. In Jerusalem, the few shopkeepers, the odd pharmacist, doctor, dentist and school teacher moved into the Old City, mainly the Christian Quarter, which had come under Jordanian control. Even the clergy that remained in the various churches and monasteries were drastically reduced in number.

JT: And what was the reason for this massive flight?

PJV: If you know the Greeks well, you will know that they are perfectly willing and able to be integrated into a society, but not to be assimilated by it. To have remained behind under an exclusive nationalist regime would have been intolerable. In fact,



Dr. P.J. Vatikiotis

they never considered the possibility of staying. They did not hesitate over the decision to leave the country.

JT: How do you think they would have fared in an Arab-controlled Palestine?

PJV: The answer to that question can only be speculative. My own feeling is that, being small in size and not at all economically prominent (as were the Greeks in Egypt) the Greek community would most probably have survived.

JT: Does your family have any homesickness for Palestine?

PJV: My father does. After all, he spent the best part of his life there and he cannot help feeling nostalgic about it.

JT: I hear you have studied for many years in Cairo.

PJV: Yes, I studied under Dr. Ahmad Amin for five years. I got my B.A. at the American University in Cairo in 1948, then my PhD from Johns Hopkins in 1953, and taught at both universities. I was visiting professor later at the

University of Michigan, UCLA, Princeton and Union College.

JT: And where did you come to rest — for now, at least?

PJV: I am currently head of the Politics Section at the School of Oriental and African Studies at the University of London.

JT: I have it from some of your Princeton students that you were a positive terror to them, often cutting them to pieces with your sarcasm. What have you got to say to that?

PJV: True, I do not suffer fools lightly. But once they survive that, they at least know how to learn. I care deeply about students. For me, ideologies are unattractive because they kill people. The destiny of one single individual is, for me, a far more important and worthwhile matter.

JT: Most people know of your book "Nasser and His Generation" (1978). What are some of your other books on the history of the Middle East?

PJV: "Politics and the History of Jordan, 1920-1957", "The Egyptian Army in Politics" and "The Modern History of Egypt".

JT: To end this interview, do you have any comments on the Conference on Bilad Al Sham?

PJV: My personal opinion is that it was much too big. There were far too many papers given, which precluded any real exchange. The ideal should be, let us say, twelve papers, twenty people to discuss them and a volume issued embodying new findings or interpretations.

My second comment is that it needs a thematic strand. As it was conducted, it was too dispersed. I would have personally preferred to have it cover for instance, the economic, religious, political and social aspects of Palestine, with the papers in each section presented in chronological order.



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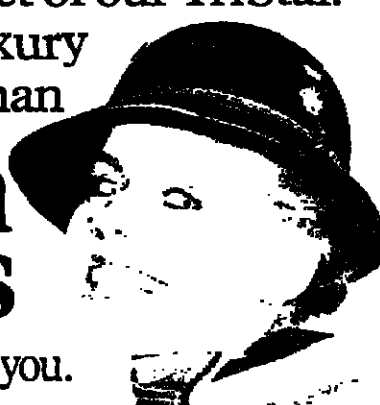
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Bank	JD 1.000	250	2.340	2.340	2.340
Gulf Bank	JD 1.000	3320	1.400	1.400	1.400
Kuwait Bank	JD 1.000	1624	2.240	2.190	2.190
Development Bank	JD 1.000	50	1.350	1.350	1.350
Insurance Co.	JD 5.000	600	12.500	12.500	12.500
Idawa Development and Investment Co.	JD 1.000	200	12.000	12.000	12.000
Shab	JD 1.000	215	3.850	3.850	3.850
Commercial and Agricultural Co.	JD 1.000	4133	3.210	3.150	3.180
General Mining Co.	JD 1.000	300	1.380	1.380	1.380
Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Co.	JD 5.000	488	25.200	25.110	25.110
Company for Aluminium Industries	JD 1.000	4845	1.350	1.350	1.350
Electricity Co.	JD 1.000	1100	2.020	2.020	2.020
Glass Manufacture	JD 1.000	200	0.880	0.880	0.880
Ceramic Industries Co.	JD 10.000	287	19.400	19.350	19.350
Glass Factories Co.	JD 1.000	2370	1.300	1.300	1.300
Phosphate Mines Co.	JD 1.000	777	0.860	0.850	0.860
Chemical Detergents Industries Co.	JD 1.000	1251	3.450	3.450	3.450
Petroleum Refinery Co.	JD 1.000	375	2.550	2.550	2.550
	JD 5.000	242	9.650	9.650	9.650

Volume Traded on Wednesday, April 23, 1980: JD 75,349

number of shares traded: 26,427

Government Development Bonds

Par Value	Number Traded	Volume Traded	High	Low
JD 10.000	2030	20300	10.000	10.000

TODAY'S WEATHER

It will be hazy, with medium and high clouds. Winds will be south-westerly moderate, becoming southeasterly moderate to fresh. In Aqaba, it will be hazy and the wind will be southerly moderate with rough seas.

	Overnight	Daytime
low	12	28
high	22	35
Amman	12	31
Agaba	18	33
Deserts		
Jordan Valley		

LOCAL EXCHANGE RATES

U.S. dollar	303.50/305.50
U.K. sterling	679.70/683.70
West German mark	163.70/164.70
Swiss franc	175.30/176.40
French franc	70.20/70.60
Italian lire (for every 100)	34.80/35.00
Japanese yen (for every 100)	121.50/122.20
Dutch guilder	148.90/149.80
Swedish crown	69.80/70.20
Belgian franc	101.80/102.40

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THE ROYAL JORDANIAN AIRLINE

Oil companies turn to coal investments

LONDON, April 23 (Agencies)—Exxon Corp., the world's biggest oil company, expects to produce nearly 30 million tonnes of coal in 1985. British Petroleum (BP) expects to exceed that figure while the Royal Dutch/Shell group has plans to produce 25 million tonnes a year.

As power in the oil business has shifted to the producer countries, the world's major oil companies have been quietly investing in other resources. "We think coal is important and we are willing to put money into it to develop it quickly," Mr. Dirk De Bruyne, head of Royal Dutch/Shell told reporters in London last week.

Other executives of the world's second biggest oil company said that in the 1990s coal mining and trading could account for as much as 10 per cent of Shell turnover. Shell plans that its mines will produce 25 million tonnes by 1985

and it hopes to operate a fleet of 25 coal carrying ships for a major share in a growing trade.

Coal, used mainly for power generation, can nowadays often be produced for less than the price of the energy equivalent in imported oil.

Exxon a decade ago invested almost entirely in oil, gas and related petrochemicals. Now it has substantial reserves of oil shale, uranium and coal. It expects its coal output to near 30 million tonnes a year by 1985.

The major oil companies stress that whilst they are investing in coal and other alternatives to petroleum, they intend in the medium term to remain primarily oil companies. "BP is still essentially an oil and gas company and is likely to remain so well into the foreseeable future, although the relative emphasis among its activities may change," BP's 1979 annual

report told shareholders.

Exxon 1979 investment in coal totalled \$57 million out of total energy capital and exploration expenditure of \$6.2 billion.

Looking beyond the turn of the century, however, the oil companies note forecasts that known reserves of oil will dwindle almost to nothing by the year 2010 unless consumption falls. Known coal reserves will last at least a century at predicted rates of use.

Shell estimates that coal will supply up to 25 per cent of the world's energy needs by 2000. Between 700 and 1,000 new mines will need to open requiring investments of \$150 to \$200 billion.

Meanwhile, Exxon Corp. today reported its first-quarter profits surged by nearly 102 per cent from last year's levels to a record \$1.925 billion. Exxon's revenues in the quarter rose to \$27.6 billion

from last year's \$18.8 billion.

The Exxon report came as other major oil companies also were announcing sharply higher earnings. The oil industry's gains are being paced by crude-oil price increases, and by improved results from refining and marketing.

But Exxon's chairman, Mr. Clinton C. Garvin Jr., said "extreme care" should be used in computing year-to-year earnings gains because "the results of any short time period are not necessarily indicative of earnings over a full year."

Exxon said 314 million of its first-quarter earnings came from foreign-exchange profits on its overseas debt as the U.S. dollar strengthened dramatically on currency markets. In the first three weeks of April, however, "Exxon has suffered foreign exchange losses of approximately \$130 million," Mr. Garvin said.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON, April 23 (R)—Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at the close of trading on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets today.

One sterling	2.2635/50
One U.S. dollar	1.1764/67
	1.8225/35
	2.000/0050
	1.7000/7020
	29.10/15
	4.2500/2550
	855.00/858.00
	244.70/245.25
	4.3070/3100
	5.0000/0050
	5.7280/7300
One ounce of gold	504.00/509.00

U.S. dollar	
Canadian dollar	
West German marks	
Dutch guilders	
Swiss francs	
Belgian francs	
French francs	
Italian lire	
Japanese yen	
Swedish crowns	
Norwegian crowns	
Danish crowns	
U.S. dollars	

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON, April 23 (R)—The market closed higher after moderate activity, dealers said. At 1500 the FT index was up 0.1 at 434.4.

Gains in government bonds ranged to ½ point. Hopes that U.S. interest rates would show a clear downward trend prompted early strength which was gradually eroded until a late rally on news that Chase Manhattan Bank was cutting its prime rate to 19 per cent from 19.5 per cent. Gold shares firmed while U.S. and Canadian stocks ended higher after yesterday's sharp Wall Street advance.

Results prompted falls in Blue Circle and Amalgamated Metal of 4p and 3p respectively while Delta Metals was unchanged after figures. Unilever Ltd. fell 3p but Unilever NV gained ½ following the annual report.

Oils pared early rises and BP and Burmah closed unchanged. Ultramar and Tricentrol added 8p and 4p respectively. Major banks and insurances were between 2p and 4p stronger. Marks, Beecham, GEC, Hawker and ICI all gained a penny or two but GKN ended a penny lower.



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سكنا سكاليف

Bush defeats Reagan Kennedy scores narrow victory in Pennsylvania

PHILADELPHIA, April 23 (Agencies)—Senator Edward Kennedy squeaked past President Jimmy Carter early today to capture a Pennsylvania presidential primary so close that the winner and the loser almost evenly split the state's Democratic nominating votes.

Mr. George Bush beat Mr. Ronald Reagan, 54 per cent to 45 per cent, in the Republican primary and said of his catch-up campaign: "It's working." Mr. Reagan said he couldn't envision circumstances that would enable Mr. Bush to overtake him now.

The victory was crucial for Mr. Kennedy to nurse along his shaken challenge to Mr. Carter. Even White House Press Secretary Jody Powell said it would "certainly be a boost to him."

Mr. Kennedy and Mr. Carter were deadlocked at 46 per cent of the vote, but the tie did nothing to shake the president's firm command in the competition that counts most—for delegates. Mr. Kennedy got 94 Pennsylvania

delegates; Mr. Carter 91.

Mr. Carter emerged from Pennsylvania with 1,038 of the 1,666 votes it will take to win the Democratic nomination. Mr. Kennedy has 569.

Mr. Reagan called the Republican primary "a meaningless horse race." The former California governor said he won what he sought, nominating delegates.

So, said Mr. Reagan, despite Mr. Bush's vote victory, Pennsylvania "moved us even closer to the Republican nomination." Mr. Reagan's managers claimed he picked up at least 50 of the state's 83 Republican delegates, but they could identify only 24 firm supporters.

Before yesterday's primary, Mr.



Senator Kennedy

Reagan had 411 Republican delegates to nine for Mr. Bush. It takes 988 to win.

Voters questioned as they left polling booths said that the economy was the most pressing problem of the day, but they were split on whether any president could handle inflation.

Mr. Carter, who defeated Senator Kennedy in ten of the 13 primaries before Pennsylvania, was caught in a vice of public anger over inflation and unemployment and his own failure to campaign because of the Iranian hostage crisis.

According to an ABC Television News poll, those voters who said inflation was the gravest problem facing the country gave the president only a 20 per cent approval rating—almost the same percentage as inflation is running this year.

Republican Mr. John Anderson, who is weighing a third-party candidacy for president, was not on the ballot in Pennsylvania and won only one per cent of the vote as a write-in candidate.

Primary elections, held in 35 states, give presidential candidates an opportunity to prove their appeal with voters and, in most cases, win commitments of votes from delegates to the national conventions of both parties. The conventions actually choose the nominees who will run for president in the national elections in November.

In other states, delegates are chosen through caucuses limited to party members only.

Philippines ferry goes down; 80 feared dead

MANILA, April 23 (R)—About 80 people were feared dead today after a Philippines ferry sank last night following a collision with an oil tanker barge. But at least 850 people were rescued.

The ferry Don Juan sank just 15 minutes after the collision with the Tacloban City. One survivor said the disaster happened so fast that passengers barely had time to save themselves. "It was a miracle that so many of us were saved despite the short time between the collision and the sinking plus the fact that it was dark," Catholic Father Manuel Duetao said.

Rescue officials said 19 people died and 60 were still missing after the collision off the rugged island of Mindoro.

But there was some confusion over the death toll with the Don Juan's owners saying they had counted 96 dead and 896 rescued.

A spokesman for the rescue coordination centre said: "Until we have the complete manifest, until we have recovered all the bodies, it is really hard to say how many were trapped in the sunken vessel. Lots of floating bodies have been seen in the disaster area and a cargo plane is expected to take cadaver bags there tomorrow."

Philippines and U.S. aircraft, backed by eight ships who responded to emergency calls, spent the day scouring the sea for survivors. The coast guard said an initial inquiry into the causes of the collision had been launched. It was a clear night and the sea was calm, according to the Don Juan's owners, the Negros Navigation Company.

The Don Juan, one of many ferries plying the scattered Philippines archipelago of 7,000 islands, had just enough time to radio a Mayday message which ended "Abandon ship, abandon ship, abandon ship." Mr. Jesse Castillon, one of the rescued passengers, praised the Don Juan's crew and said their presence of mind helped save many lives.

Marking apparent end of major military reshuffle

Pakistan general appointed to top post

ISLAMABAD, April 23 (R)—The governor of Pakistan's Punjab province, Lieutenant-General Sawar Khan, was yesterday promoted to the rank of general and appointed to the vacant post of vice-chief of the army.

He is replaced in Lahore, the Punjab capital, by the top official in the Defence Ministry, Lieutenant-General Ghulam Jilani Khan.

The new appointments, which take effect from May 1, appear to mark the end of a major reshuffle of top military posts begun by the country's military ruler General Zia ul-Haq just over a month ago.

The promotions and new appointments were first announced on March 16, a few days after reports circulated in Pakistan and abroad that the gov-

ernment had uncovered what was first believed to be a coup attempt but was later learned to be an assassination attempt against General Zia.

Government officials said the reshuffle had nothing to do with the coup attempt and was part of General Zia's effort to improve military and administrative efficiency by separating top generals in the government from their military responsibilities.

President Zia began the reshuffle by taking away the command of the country's six army corps from the governors of the four provinces and two members of the cabinet. One of the two government ministers involved, Lieutenant-General F.A. Chisti, who helped organise the coup which brought General Zia to power in July 1977, also resigned from the government.

One governor, Lieutenant-General Rahimuddin Khan of Baluchistan province whose daughter is married to General Zia's son, has since retained command of his corps and has effectively escaped the reduction of power imposed on the other generals surrounding the president. Official sources said he was expected to give up the governorship.

Six major-generals were promoted to lieutenant-general to take over as corps commanders. One of the senior generals

named in the coup reports from abroad was former deputy chief of army staff Lieutenant-General Mohammad Iqbal Khan. He was promoted to general ten days ago and appointed to the vacant position as chairman of the joint chiefs of staff committee.

The Punjab governor, Lieutenant-General Sawar Khan, takes over General Iqbal's old job, but the title has been changed from deputy chief to vice-chief of army staff.

Pakistan now has three four-star generals—General Zia, the president and army chief, General Iqbal and General Sawar Khan. The chiefs of staff of the air force and navy were recently promoted to the equivalent rank of four-star general.



President Zia

IEA: World coal production must triple by end of century

PARIS, April 23 (R)—World coal production must triple by the end of this century to meet the challenge of more expensive and scarcer oil supplies, Mr. Ulf Lantzke, executive director of the International Energy Agency (IEA) said yesterday.

Mr. Lantzke told journalists the IEA's original target of doubling production by the year 2000 must now be achieved by the early 1990s, when oil will no longer keep pace with the rising demand for energy.

Coal producers and consumers from most of the 20 IEA nations begin a two-day meeting tomorrow to examine whether these two targets can be met and recommend ways of achieving them.

The IEA was founded in 1974 to coordinate energy policies among non-communist industrialised nations to cope with the oil crisis following the 1973 Arab-Israeli war. It later set up

the international Coal Industry Advisory Board (CIAB), which meets for the first time this week, to plan and manage increased coal production.

Mr. Lantzke said the CIAB's tasks included planning the expanded transport system needed to move three times the present world output.

IEA sources say tripling production by the end of this century will require a world coal trade large enough to move 700 million tonnes of coal annually, the energy equivalent of Saudi Arabia's present oil production of 9.5 million barrels a day. Coal trade on the world market in 1978 was only about 130 million tonnes.

The CIAB experts, who include a large U.S. contingent, represent coal and electricity producers as well as steel, oil and manufacturing companies.

HAVANA—The mass invasion of the Peruvian embassy in Havana by thousands of disgruntled Cubans anxious to leave their country has turned into something more than a simple diplomatic incident.

It has led many Cubans and foreign diplomats to ask what went wrong in this sun-kissed tropical island where two decades ago a romantic band of bearded guerrillas set out to eradicate poverty and promote social justice.

To a large extent, these goals have been achieved. Cuba is one of very few non-oil-producing Third World countries where everybody eats, all children go to school, illiteracy has practically disappeared and health care extends to the most remote areas.

Diplomatic observers here believe the Cuban authorities thought that no more than a few hundred people would jump over the fence when the Peruvian mission became an appendix of the official immigration office.

Why then did more than 10,000 people cram the mission in search of asylum and a better life abroad? Cuban President Fidel Castro himself, observers say, provided an answer to that question in a closed-door session of the national assembly last December.

Tito reported in state of shock

LJUBLJANA, Yugoslavia, April 23 (R)—President Tito's doctors said today his critical condition had worsened and he was in a state of shock.

In the most pessimistic bulletin so far, doctors at the medical centre in Ljubljana said he had entered the state of shock last night after a relapse during the afternoon. The bulletin also said that the president, 87, was in a comatose state, something officials have mentioned only privately in the past.

Shock results when blood pressure falls too low to ensure an adequate flow through the body's tissues, particularly the brain. It is frequently the immediate cause of death for victims of accidents or those suffering acute illness.

Illnesses which President Tito has been suffering since February include kidney failure, liver damage, heart weakness and pneumonia. His left leg was amputated on Jan. 20. Official sources said today there was very little prospect that the president could survive much longer.

Bulletins have been issued daily by the eight doctors treating him in this northern city. He was admitted to hospital on Jan. 12. Last night they issued a second bulletin for the first time in nearly three months, indicating an alarming degeneration in his condition. It said his already grave state had entered a critical phase.

Independent medical sources said the state of shock, in reaction to the comatose condition, meant that all body functions were endangered simultaneously. "It is now a question of how long a patient can last in a state of shock. In many cases it is a matter of hours rather than days," the sources said.

Apart from a slight increase in the regular arrivals and departures of black official cars, there was no sign of unusual activity at the heavily-guarded Ljubljana medical centre.

Life went on much as normal in the city, capital of the constituent republic of Slovenia. But as people in the street awaited the midday bulletin, they said they believed President Tito was now losing the battle for his life.

Slovenian government bodies held a series of hectic meetings. "The president's health is the main topic of course. But the government is trying to do as much regular work as possible because everything will be paralysed for a few days in case of a death announcement," one official said.

National authorities in Belgrade also appeared braced for the veteran communist leader's passing. The official Tanjug news agency began its newscasts unusually early today in clear anticipation of a sudden report from Ljubljana.

Gromyko faces 'tough talks' in France

PARIS, April 23 (R)—Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko faced tough talks from France today on his first visit to a Western country since the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan in December.

Foreign Minister Jean Francois-Poncet has said he will stress to Mr. Gromyko that only speedy withdrawal of the Soviet troops could prevent the crisis from inflicting grave and perhaps lasting damage on East-West détente.

French dismay at evidence that the Russians are preparing for a long stay in Afghanistan has given the visit an atmosphere of icy disapproval. Only Mr. Francois-Poncet's deputy, Mr. Olivier Störn, was at Orly airport to greet the Soviet foreign minister. The French foreign minister himself attended a cabinet meeting.

Senior French officials said they did not expect any spectacular gesture by the Russians to relieve the tensions, but the talks would be a useful opportunity to bring home to the Kremlin the intensity of Western disapproval and alarm.

This sombre approach was reflected in French press comment today. Le Figaro asked "What is there to talk about?" and said that all West European countries had been able to do about the situation was to make speeches and issue communiques. Le Quotidien de Paris spoke of "a useless dialogue."

French diplomats said Mr. Francois-Poncet and President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, who meets Mr. Gromyko tomorrow, would probe for any policy shift in

the Kremlin so that the West could adapt to it.

Asked as he left the cabinet today to join Mr. Gromyko whether he thought the talks would yield results, the French foreign minister said: "I will do my best."

In a remarkably tough statement to the national assembly last Friday, Mr. Francois-Poncet said: "We have things to say to the Soviet Union."

It was up to the Russians to take the necessary steps to restore détente, he told French parliamentarians. "If the crisis is not quickly overcome, all the structure of East-West relations as it was built up patiently over 15 years... risks being shaken to its foundations," he said.

Informed French sources expected Mr. Gromyko to try to drive a wedge in the Western alliance by praising France's contributions to détente and at the same time warning against the dangers for Europe of backing the United States in an aggressive military and economic posture towards the Soviet Union.

The Soviet foreign minister is likely to reiterate Russian demands that the NATO decision last December to deploy U.S.-made medium-range missiles in Western Europe be reversed.

In a stage-setting speech in Paris last week, Soviet Ambassador Stepan Chervonenko said the Americans were deliberately placing rockets aimed at the Soviet Union as far as possible from their own shores.

Mass picketing continues in India's Assam state

GAUHATI, India, April 23 (R)—Hundreds of people were arrested today as mass picketing of government offices and banks went into its second day in India's troubled north-eastern Assam state. No violence was reported, however, as the peaceful demonstrations went on seeking the expulsion of migrant workers from the state.

Students who are leading the seven-month-old agitation yesterday called for five days of picketing across Assam after security forces wrested control of the Narengi oil pipeline headquarters from demonstrators.

But employees at Narengi continued a strike against restarting

World News Briefs

PARIS, April 23 (R)—Five people were injured when Corsican separatists set off a series of bomb explosions in Paris, Nice and Ajaccio overnight, police said. Seven of the blasts were in Paris, two in Nice and one in the Corsican town. They damaged post offices, Air France airline centres and Finance Ministry offices, police said. Five passers-by were slightly injured by flying debris in the Paris explosions. The National Liberation Front of Corsica (FNLC) claimed responsibility for the blasts, which followed a meeting in Paris yesterday between President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing and Corsican parliamentarians. There were nearly 600 bomb attacks on the French Mediterranean island last year, most of them against empty office buildings at night.

ATHENS, April 23 (R)—Greek Prime Minister Constantine Karamanlis' bid for the presidency failed by just 21 votes in a parliamentary ballot today. The 300-member parliament, which must elect a new president by May 19 to replace Mr. Constantine Tsatsos or fight a general election, now faces two more ballots. Mr. Karamanlis, 73-year-old leader of the ruling New Democracy Party and sole candidate today, received 179 of the 200 votes needed. Ten deputies voted against him and 15 cast blank votes. The Panhellenic Socialist Party, the main opposition party, attended parliament today but did not vote. A second ballot will take place next Tuesday followed, if necessary, by a third in which the winning candidate would need 180 votes. Mr. Karamanlis' party commands 174 seats and the missing six votes in the third ballot would have to come from the smaller parties and the independents.

ATHENS, April 23 (R)—About 30 Armenians today staged a sit-down demonstration and hunger strike outside the United Nations information office in Athens. They said they were marking the 6th anniversary of the genocide of Armenians in Turkey. They distributed leaflets saying that April 23 and 24, 1913, the Turks launched a pogrom against the Armenian minority in Turkey, killing thousands of people. The demonstrators, who said the hunger strike would last through tomorrow, held placards criticising Turkey and calling for a free Armenian state.

DAR ES SALAAM, April 23 (R)—Former Ugandan president Mr. Milton Obote today confirmed reports that he will return soon from exile in Tanzania to prepare for the Ugandan elections due in December. A leader of his United People's Congress party (UPC), Mr. Luwuliza-Kirunda, told a press conference in Kampala yesterday the ex-president would return before June 3—the anniversary of the final defeat last year of forces loyal to former dictator Idi Amin. Asked about the reports, Dr. Obote told Reuters that all such announcements were being made on his behalf in Kampala. "But I (Mr. Luwuliza-Kirunda) would not have said those things if they were not true," Dr. Obote, who ruled Uganda from independence in 1962 until he was overthrown by Amin in 1971, has been living as a virtual recluse in a heavily-guarded Dar es Salaam villa next to President Julius Nyerere's private beach house.

BOGOTA, April 23 (R)—Left-wing guerrillas occupying the Dominican Republic embassy in Bogota yesterday released the Dominican consul, reducing the number of hostages held to 16. The consul, Mr. Rafael Sanchez, left with three members of the Inter American Human Rights Commission who entered the embassy in an apparent attempt to mediate between the guerrillas of the M-11 movement and the Colombian Government. The guerrillas stormed the embassy during a diplomatic reception on Feb. 27 and demanded the release of jailed comrades. The 16 hostages still held at the embassy include 11 ambassadors.

LONDON, April 23 (R)—British Foreign Secretary Lord Carrington will visit Washington from May 3 to May 6 for talks with US Secretary of State Cyrus Vance on the Iranian and Afghan crises. Africa issues and other major world problems. The Foreign Office yesterday announced Lord Carrington would also meet other administration officials. This is Lord Carrington's first official visit to Washington since becoming foreign secretary May last.

the oil flow, estimated at one-seventh of India's needs. The shortage of diesel and petrol caused by the agitation has halted nearly all road haulage traffic in Assam.

Most petrol pumps in Gauhati, the state capital, were dry today and there were few buses or other vehicles on the roads.

In Upper Assam, a power station fuelled by natural gas had to close down and electricity cuts were introduced. Other power stations were expected to be affected if the oil blockade continued, officials said.

Thousands of slogan-chanting men, women and children today

continued their sit-ins outside government offices. Others tried to march to the oil installations Narengi but were stopped by police barricades.

Students leading the demonstrations said that an influx of estimated 3.5 million outsiders from Bangladesh, Nepal and West Bengal over the past 30 years deprived the people of Assam jobs and threatens their culture identity.

They have been demanding all those who have entered state since 1951 should be expelled. The government maintains that 1971 should be the cut-off year.

Why are so many Cubans trying to leave?

By Claude Regis

HAVANA—The mass invasion of the Peruvian embassy in Havana by thousands of disgruntled Cubans anxious to leave their country has turned into something more than a simple diplomatic incident.

He stunned those present by going through a dismal list of the 21-year-old revolution's shortcomings: absenteeism, low productivity, corruption and delinquency were rampant, he said.

In his speech, which had not been published in the local press, Cuba's leader also disclosed that for the first time in two decades there would be thousands of people without a job this year.

He explained that Cuba had been saved from economic disaster by the Soviet Union, which linked the price it pays the island for sugar, its main export commodity, to what it charges for oil and other essential supplies.

On top of that, diseases hit the sugar and tobacco harvests, and an epidemic of swine fever affected the island's eastern province of Guantanamo.

As a result of these deficiencies and natural disasters, most foodstuffs and consumer goods continue to be strictly rationed. Cigars and coffee, the average Cuban's two passions, have become practically unobtainable.

Widespread discontent

Discontent has become widespread and in his lengthy speech, Dr. Castro disclosed that dissident groups had become more active. The government last year freed most of its thousands of political prisoners and allowed exiles, many in the United States, to return for visits.

But if these two developments have improved Cuba's image

abroad, the latter has created new problems internally and may help to explain the biggest mass invasion of an embassy by would-be emigrants.

The "cousins" from Florida have brought in much needed hard currency, \$100 million last year, but they also introduced what some observers here have called "ideological contagion."



Fidel Castro

Many of the hundreds of thousands of Cubans who went into exile in the early days of the revolution have done well in the United States and other countries such as Spain and Mexico.

They came here with their suitcases overflowing with all the luxury goods that are either in short supply in Cuba or simply unobtainable other than on a flourishing black market where they

fetch astronomical prices. A pair of American jeans can sell for up to \$150 in Cuba.

The exiles showed relatives photographs of their suburban U.S. homes, complete with well-tended lawns. Two American cars in the garage, colour television and all the latest household appliances.

To many Cubans, whose daily life is a constant struggle to solve problems such as finding vegetables and fruit and getting anything repaired, life on the other side of the Straits of Florida could not be as bad as described by the local press.

"The impact has been tremendous for many Cubans," one Western diplomat said. The 10,000 who flocked into the unguarded Peruvian embassy on Easter weekend must have included a good proportion of people who were visited by rich relatives, he added.

Many top members of the ruling Cuban Communist Party were aware of the risks of ideological contagion and the decision to allow the exiles in was not an easy one. President Castro admitted there had been strong differences of opinion within the party hierarchy on the issue.

Pro-government march

To counter the wave of adverse publicity the mass embassy occupation has unleashed abroad, Cuban authorities launched the biggest pro-government demonstration ever seen in Havana. More than one million men,

women and children marched past the diplomatic compound for a total of 14 hours in a well-staged, managed revolutionary backlash.

The parade was aimed at showing the world opinion that the government still enjoyed the support of the vast majority of the population and at whipping up renewed revolutionary and patriotic fervour among the population. Banners waved by the marchers criticised the stand of Peru and Venezuela over the right of asylum issue, described those inside the compound as "anti-social elements and homeland sellers" and vowed against forthcoming "S. military exercises in the Caribbean."

The date of the march was chosen to coincide with the 19th anniversary of the abortive Bay of Pigs invasion by American-backed Cuban exiles.

The Committees for the Defence of the Revolution (CDR), Cuba's mammoth vigilante organisation, saw to it that everyone attended.

City centre apartment dwellers were awakened by a knock on the door from their local CDR president at six a.m. and reminded that they were expected to march two hours later. The city's entire bus fleet was mobilised to take people to and from the demonstration.

Strict regimentation

Life in Cuba is strictly regimented and there is no room for individualists, or "anti-socials" as they are called in the local Marxist jargon.

Cuban leaders have proclaimed that their aim of constructing socialist society had to be on a voluntary basis and that those who wanted to take no part in it could leave. But once a Cuban applied for an exit visa, he had to wait years before he was to leave the country.

Many of the people who stormed the Peruvian embassy were among this category, according to Peruvian diplomats.

The 10,000 represented a cross-section of Cuban society, complete with a fair proportion of petty criminals and delinquents. Workers, peasants, students, professional people, and housewives had one thing in common: they had either never adapted life under communism or had fallen out of love with the system.

Most foreign observers concede that Dr. Castro's year-old government has lifted worst-off Cubans out of an appalling pre-revolutionary conditions in a way that no other Latin American nation has achieved.

But the cost has been high: there is now no individual freedom in Cuba. The redistribution of wealth has meant a leveling down process and the emergence of a society where material rewards are scarce, except for party cadres.

President Castro himself warned in his December speech that "we are navigating on a sea of difficulties" and that the shore is still far away.

REUTERS